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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/763,720	01/23/2004	Perry R. DeYoung	OLI02 P-358	7339
277	7590	10/05/2005	EXAMINER	
PRICE HENEVELD COOPER DEWITT & LITTON, LLP 695 KENMOOR, S.E. P O BOX 2567 GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49501			MORAN, KATHERINE M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3765	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/763,720

Applicant(s)

DEYOUNG ET AL.

Examiner

Katherine Moran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7-9 and 13-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6, 10-12, 16-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/23/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Votolato (US 2003/0131393) in view of Bignon et al. (Bignon, U.S. 6,532,597).

Votolato discloses the invention substantially as claimed. Votolato teaches a food holder 10 comprising a substantially symmetrical U-shaped body comprising a pair of opposite digit pockets 11,12 for accepting fingers or a thumb of a user of the food holder therein and a food pocket located between the digit pockets. The food pocket defines an inwardly tapering opening and the digit pockets taper in a tapering direction.

However, Votolato doesn't teach an exterior surface of the digit pockets having elongated ridges, or that the ridges have a longer dimension in the tapering direction than in a direction perpendicular to the tapering direction. Bignon '597 teaches a food holder with opposite digit pockets 20,30 with the pockets having elongated ridges. The ridges serve to reinforce the glove's structure and also, by virtue of their raised profiles, provide air channels on the interior of the glove, thus providing expanded exterior space for air flow. Applicant's specification does not provide criticality for the ridges changing dimension and as such this feature appears to be a design choice which could have been arrived at through routine experimentation. The tapered ridge dimension would

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follow the tapered shape of the pockets and would provide an improved aesthetic effect. Therefore, it would have been obvious to provide Votolato's exterior pocket surfaces with ridges having a longer dimension in the tapering direction than in a direction perpendicular to the tapering direction, as a reinforcement means and aesthetic effect.

3. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Votolato in view of Bignon and Depta, Jr. (Depta, 2,701,361). Votolato, when viewed with Bignon as discussed above, discloses the invention as claimed. Votolato teaches a use for his device including handling food. However, Votolato doesn't teach a method of cutting food while wearing the claimed device. Depta teaches that it is known to wear a protective device 17 while cutting food 16. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to wear the device of Votolato performing the cutting of food because Votolato's device provides a more substantial coverage for the wearer's hand.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 4-6, 10-12, and 16-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record on the attached PTO-892, and not relied upon, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

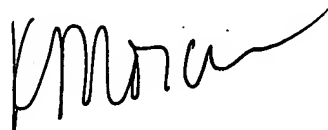
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Katherine Moran at (571) 272-4990. The examiner can be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm, and alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert, may be reached at (571) 272-4983. The official and after final fax number for the organization where this application is assigned is (571) 273-8300. General information regarding this application may be obtained by contacting the Group Receptionist at (571) 272-3700.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kmm

October 3, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Moran', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Katherine Moran

Primary Examiner, AU 3765